



Bureau of Land Management
Twin Falls District
2536 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, ID 83301



Sawtooth National Forest
2647 Kimberly Road E.
Twin Falls, ID 83301

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Escaped Fires Burn Private and Public Land Acres

TWIN FALLS, Id. – Burning weeds along ditch banks, fences and driveways is a common springtime practice for many a south central Idaho property owner. It's a great way to eradicate private property of those pesky weeds that can cause unsightly messes and clog ditches. However, if there were a message that local Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management and rural Fire Chiefs could share with the public, it would be to examine the weather conditions prior to striking that match.

“So far this year, there have been numerous burn escapes due to conditions too windy to keep the fire contained within the intended burn area. These fires have consumed several acres of public and private land and were preventable under the right weather conditions,” said Chris Simonson, Twin Falls District Fire and Aviation Fire Management Officer. “It's that time of year to remind the public of the potential hazards surrounding burning weeds on private ground.”

Gooding Fire Chief Pat Bishop, who is also the Chairman of the South Central Idaho Fire Cooperative states, “Not only should weather conditions be examined prior to burning, ways to extinguish the fire should be readily available; whether it's access to water and shovels, or digging a line around the proposed burn area—it's so important to

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prepare ahead of time to extinguish a fire before it burns out of control.”

Even though it’s open burning season, Idaho State Department of Lands South Central Area Manager Tim Duffner urged the public to call their local fire department as a courtesy, to let them know before they start burning. “If the fire departments are aware of the burn occurring on private land, they save time and resources by not having to respond when it isn’t an emergency,” says Duffner.

May 10, 2008 is the date when open burning season ends and burn permits are required to burn on private land (agricultural field burning is no longer allowed in Idaho – please contact Department of Environmental Quality for additional information (208) 736-2190). However, local ordinances concerning burning may supersede state rules and regulations in some areas. A burn permit may be obtained after May 10, by contacting South Central Idaho Dispatch at (208) 886-2373.

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